

That Splash of Saffron

SESSUE HAYAKAWA, A COSMOPOLITAN ACTOR WHO, FOR REASONS OF NATIVITY, HAPPENS TO PEER FROM OUR WHITE SCREENS WITH TILTED EYES

By Grace Kingsley

Photography by Raymond Staggs.

NO, Sessue Hayakawa, the world's most noted Japanese photoplay actor, does not dwell in a papier-mache house amid tea-cup scenery.

He is working in pictures in Los Angeles, and he lives in a "regular" bungalow, furnished in mission oak, and dresses very modestly according to American standards. Even his gods are forsaken, for he owns an English bull-pup, named Shoki, which means "destruction," and is the name of a Japanese god.

Mr. Hayakawa's first picture success was in "The Typhoon," following which he appeared in "The Wrath of the Gods," and his latest success is in his role of the Japanese in the Lasky production of "The Cheat," with Fannie Ward.

But great as has been his success in these roles, he does not like them.

"Such roles are not true to our Japanese nature," he said. "They are false and give people a wrong idea of us. I wish to make a characterization which shall reveal us as we really are, and I am glad to say I am soon to have that opportunity, for Miss Jeanie MacPherson,

son, scenario writer for the Lasky Company, is writing a play for me in which I shall play a Japanese who shall do justice to the real Japanese character, and show its best traits."

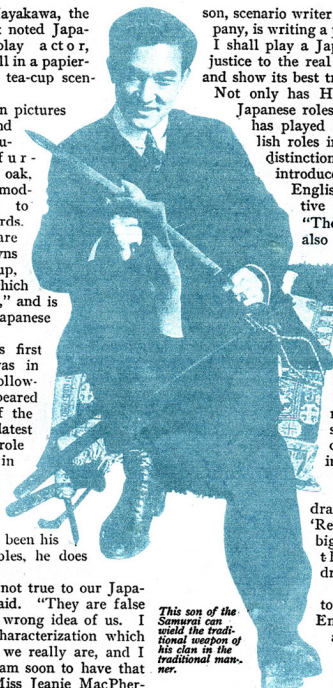
Not only has Hayakawa introduced Japanese roles in America, but he has played American and English roles in Japan, having the distinction, indeed, of having introduced American and English drama in his native land. He played "The Typhoon" there; also Ibsen and Shakespeare, making an especial hit as "Othello."

"Do the Japanese like foreign drama? Oh, very much indeed; that is, serious drama. They do not care for your comedy, not even Shakespeare's. Probably comedy is too local in its significances.

They are beginning to like the Russian drama also. Tolstoi's 'Resurrection' made a big hit. They like also the serious French drama."

"Do Japanese actors like appearing in English drama?" was asked.

"Oh, very much indeed. It gives them a new medium



This son of the Samurai can wield the traditional weapon of his clan in the traditional manner.